

In regards to the docket about number portability, I cannot emphasize strongly enough how important that concept is versus any other argument that the cell phone carriers may be using to cloud the issue. You as my elected and appointed governing body will be making a serious economic impact should you choose NOT to implement portability. As a consumer who changes cell phones on an annual or bi-annual basis, having a number that travels with me will more than anything else encourage me to continue to upgrade my phone and technology. The wireless companies' claims of this being consumer un-friendly is a red herring designed to lock in their customer base and guarantee them profits. Then when all the little companies are gone, the one provider in each market will triple their fees and leave us with no choice but to pay or discard something that has (in the post 9/11/01 world) become regarded as an essential of daily life. This is not a pro-consumer or pro-American stance. When a provider is the sole source, what commitment is there to improve service or increase coverage? By providing number portability, this will have the net effect of allowing small players to survive and large players to become more customer focused. And to compete they will have to improve service and increase coverage anyway, which is their stated goal. But they'll be doing it in a consumer-friendly manner, not as part of a shell game. If you allow the number portability rule to be delayed permanently, you will be doing a serious disservice to every consumer in of cellular service in the US. Thank you.